

December 2013

Dear Friend,

I pray this finds you and your loved ones doing well in His grace during this special season in which people around the world remember the birth of Christ. As His followers, we have the distinct privilege of living out the true meaning of Christmas every day of the year. That is our mission at Mars Hill, to be used of God to help people everywhere experience the birth of His life in their lives now! We do that by making The HOPE movie, the grand story of the Gospel from creation through eternity, available in as many ways, to as many people, in as many places as possible. Here are some of the ways we've done that in 2013 . . .

The HOPE, an evangelism and discipleship tool used by harvest workers and Church planters around the world.

What does a post-modern city dweller in Europe have in common with an unreached people group in India? Most likely, neither has any reference point for basic Biblical concepts such as the power of sin or a loving, all-powerful Creator. This often makes it difficult for either to follow a simple "four spiritual laws" type of Gospel presentation, or to truly understand what it means to follow Jesus as the God, instead of just another god.



After viewing The HOPE and engaging in a group discussion, this Swedish student studying in Hungary came to Christ and was then baptized.

This is why The HOPE, with its dramatic meta-narrative presentation of the scarlet thread of the Bible, has become a mainstay in the toolbox of missionaries worldwide. Now in over 50 languages, the most basic use of The HOPE is when it is shown and followed up by a ministry minded Christian in a group setting. This could be a single viewing of the entire movie, or in chapters over a period of time. It could be on a university campus with highly educated international students or in a remote jungle village with people who don't read. With nearly a million copies in circulation, the kinds of situations and places in which The HOPE is being used are simply too many to list.



Like this showing in Haiti, The HOPE is used in villages worldwide. One ministry partner in Haiti has seen over 687 decisions for Christ after HOPE viewings in 2013.

Broadcasting HOPE - In various regions, The HOPE is now broadcast regularly in several languages including Arabic, French, Mandarin, Thai, German, Russian, Spanish, and English. We are particularly excited about broadcasts into areas that are hostile to the Great Good News of the Gospel.



Praise God for using technology to overcome barriers to the Gospel.

HOPE on the Internet - Nearly 10 years ago, not long after the completion of the English version of The HOPE, one of our ministry partners, ChristianAnswers.net, began streaming The HOPE online. Soon after that, Gospel Communications (the Bible Gateway people) partnered with us on a website dedicated to The HOPE. Our

French partners have been conducting an online discipleship course with The HOPE for years. From these and other online ministries we know of thousands of people who have come to Christ and grown in their faith. We praise God for this ministry, but we believe the best is yet to come!



Over half of all visitors come to the new HOPE website on a mobile device like this.

There are now over 2 billion people around the world using the Internet. This year we launched a new website which is making The HOPE video, a study guide and a means for follow-up available in the languages spoken by nearly 90% of the entire worldwide Internet population! Available on desktop computers, tablets and mobile devices, this website is being launched as part of a strategy with a new partner, Global Media Outreach. Today, hundreds of people around the world visit The HOPE online every day. With The HOPE/GMO strategy

kicking off this month, we expect that number to grow soon to thousands a day. Please visit the new HOPE website at www.thehopeproject.com and let us know what you think. We'd love to hear from you!

Decision: I just now prayed and received eternal life through Jesus Christ as a result of The HOPE video Web Site.

We regularly receive responses like this from online viewers.

The True Message of Christmas in Context - Join Us For a Strategic Great Commission Mission in 2014!



The image above was extracted from a much larger painting that was created to help contextualize The HOPE for Tibetan audiences. The style is familiar to the culture. And isn't this what it's all about? . . . making the true message of Christmas, the Gospel, accessible to all people! Recently, the Southern Baptist International Mission Board asked us to partner with them to create translations of The HOPE for 200 Unreached People Groups who have no scripture, no Jesus film or any other Bible based materials. In other words, they are without God's redemptive story in their language. We believe this is a strategic Great Commission opportunity, one that will likely become a primary mission for us in 2014. We'd love for you to join us on this mission!

We are grateful for all of our partners in the ministry of The HOPE, those who translate it, those who use it, those who pray for it and those who help fund it. Thank you for your interest in this ministry! God bless you.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fred Carpenter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Fred Carpenter
President